

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 18 of 1879.]

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd May 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Grāmavārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
3	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	.....	29th April 1879.
4	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	22nd ditto.
5	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	.....
6	"Bardwān Sanjivānī"	Burdwān	.....	29th ditto.
7	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	27th ditto.
8	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	25th ditto.
9	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca	300	26th ditto.
10	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	23rd ditto.
11	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....
12	"Pratikār"	Ditto	235	25th ditto.
13	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	24th ditto.
14	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah	516	27th ditto.
15	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	.....	28th ditto.
16	"Samāchād Sār"	Allahabad	.....
17	"Sanjivānī"	Mymensingh	.....	25th ditto.
18	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	5,500	26th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
19	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Ditto	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
20	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	550	25th April to 1st May 1879.
21	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	.....	25th to 30th April 1879.
22	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	23rd, 24th, and 30th April 1879.
23	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
24	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	.....	18th April 1879.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
25	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	26th ditto.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
26	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	23rd and 30th April 1879.
27	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	.....
28	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	.....	21st and 28th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
29	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	25th April 1879.

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR.
April 22nd, 1879.

The Afghan war.

THE following is the substance of an article in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 22nd April, on the Afghan war:—It is difficult to see where and when this war will end. Yakub Khan, without actually appearing before the British army, is harassing it in various ways. Whatever acts of indiscretion Shere Ali may have committed in his lifetime, he made ample expiation for them when, in the hour of parting with his son, he entrusted the task of defending the country in the hands of the latter, who also is doing his best to redeem the pledge he made to his parent. No one has yet any clear knowledge of his movements. From a study of the circumstances connected with this war, we have, however, arrived at two conclusions, namely, (1), that Yakub Khan will not, unless subjected to extreme pressure, come to any terms with the British Government which may dismember Afghanistan; and (2), that he will not readily or voluntarily engage in any open fight with his enemy. It is now many days that Shere Ali met with his death; and if Yakub had really desired peace, he would have, by this time, found ample opportunities for securing it. As it is, with his authority not yet fully established over the people, and in view of the dislike with which any proposal to terminate the war by surrendering any portion of the Afghan territory is certain to be regarded by the powerful sirdars, Yakub would, even if he himself desired it, find it difficult to listen to the terms offered by the British Government. He is not, indeed, a coward; but he also knows the strength of the enemy he is to contend with, and is fully aware that, in the open field, his troops are no match for the powerful British soldiers. Hence it is, that he has betaken himself to a sort of irregular mountain warfare, and raised a host of warriors in all directions to harass the invaders. Up to this time, however, there have been no battles worthy of the name except those that took place at Ali Musjid and the Peiwar Kothal. The Afghans are retiring at the approach of the advancing army. Whether this is due to any "policy" or madness on the part of the Afghan commander, cannot yet be known; it is, however, a fact that the wild tribes are harassing the British lion from their mountain homes. So that the war is now conducted not so much against the Afghan troops, as against the fierce, predatory, wild tribes, who are gradually growing in audacity. The somewhat organized and methodical opposition which they are offering to the British troops leads us to believe that Yakub Khan is their secret instigator. The present position of the invading army in Afghanistan does not appear to us to be satisfactory. They are surrounded on all sides by hostile tribes. Various circumstances point to the conclusion that Lord Beaconsfield's scientific frontier has not yet been attained; that the Cabul affair has not approached anything like a termination; and that the present is but the first chapter of its second stage. The British army is advancing; but where is the enemy? How far will the former advance? If Yakub retired into Balkh or Herat, what would be their position? It seems clear to us that he will not readily fight a pitched battle, but will watch unobserved, and wait for opportunities. We think that it will be imprudence on the part of the British army to make any further advance.

BHARAT MIHIR.

The state of the finances.

2. We give below the substance of an article in the same paper on the "Future of India":—We have repeatedly during the last three years adverted to the fact that this poor country is not able to maintain the present costly administration; and if there be no reduction of public expenditure, the bankruptcy of India will be unavoidable. No one ever paid any heed to our warnings, for when was the Government of India ever moved by a purely

Indian agitation? In England, indeed, Professor Fawcett has always, during successive sessions of Parliament, called attention to the state of the Indian finance, but his efforts have hitherto failed to excite sufficient interest in the different Under-Secretaries of State. Fortunately, however, the subject has now begun to receive attention from many of the leading men in England, who have now been convinced of the critical condition of the Indian finance. All Government must come to an end in a country whose finances were not in a sound condition. This has been clearly illustrated in the cases of Turkey, Egypt, and Spain. Regarding the financial administration of India, the Home Government had so long thrown dust in the eyes of the public. The last budget of Sir John Strachey, however, has torn asunder the veil which had concealed the true state of matters. Now, the Finance Minister wants to make the public understand that the present unsatisfactory state of the finances has been brought about by two causes, namely, (1), the recurrence of famines; and (2), the depreciation of silver. As shown by Sir John Strachey himself in his last year's budget, famines must no longer be viewed as extraordinary contingencies, but rather as ordinary occurrences; and, as such, the cost of suppressing them should be provided for in every year's budget. While not denying the injury which has resulted from the operation of these two circumstances, we may be permitted to observe that the present scale of expenditure is not at all suited to this country. Within the last four years the public debt has enormously increased; and loans, both in India and England, are still being called for. But how long will this continue? How long can any Government be carried on by means of loans? Now, it may be affirmed that unless the English Government guaranteed the Indian loans, they would not much longer be so easily obtained, and if obtained, the rate of interest would not be lower than at present. But how to meet the increased liabilities of the Government on account of these loans? Famines are not likely to disappear; nor will the silver market improve. Add to this the expenses of the war, which the gods, without attending to its true condition, have thrown upon this country. Any expansion of the Indian revenues is not possible; all the available sources of income being worked to the utmost. This is so much the case that the cultivation of poppy on any extensive scale in China will totally ruin the opium revenue, an important item of the income. The revenue from land cannot any more be enhanced, nay, if Government really desires to prevent the recurrence of famines and remove the poverty of the agricultural classes, it should introduce a permanent land settlement like that existing in Bengal, into Bombay, Madras, and the North-Western Provinces. Taxation has reached its utmost limit. No tax was ever imposed on the people of any other civilized country so oppressive as the license tax. Add to this the results of the Afghan war. We do not here reckon the costs of the war. It cannot be that the British have engaged in this undertaking without having any ulterior motive. The true object of the war was not given out in Lord Lytton's proclamation, which we have ever regarded as a refined poetic fiction. But peace or war, a considerable portion of Afghan territory must be annexed to India. The Afghans, who are a poor people, will not be able to pay for the glitter and display of the British Government or the high salaries of its English officers; and then the moral policy, under the influence of which the costs of the war have been thrown upon India, will demand that she should bear the expenses of the annexation also. Without questioning the correctness of our prophecy, the readers should, on this account, add a sum of two crores of rupees to the amount representing the permanent expenditure on the administration of the country. If an increase of revenue

be impossible, how can there be an adjustment of income and expenditure? The subject should receive early attention. A Government under which the army alone absorbs half the income cannot endure long.

BEARAT MINIR,
April 22nd, 1879.

3. Referring to the costs of the administration, the same paper in another article dwells on the necessity of appointing natives more largely to the public service than is the case at present. Considerable savings will result from this, while there will be no diminution of efficiency.

4. The *Sahachar*, of the 28th April, contains an article on the proposal to reduce the armies of the Native States. After dwelling on the loyalty of the Native

SAHACHAR,
April 28th, 1879.

Princes to the paramount power and the services they have rendered to it in times of danger, such as the Sepoy mutiny of 1857, and even in the present Afghan war, the editor proceeds to observe that the proposal cannot be due to any want of confidence in their loyalty, or to any fear that they may combine against the British Government. Much might indeed be said against the proposal, still this journal fully approves of it; for, if carried out, the Native Princes will rather gain than lose by this measure. Since the British Government has pledged to grant the people security of life and property, and protection from internal sedition, as well as foreign invasion, there is no necessity of keeping up these costly and showy armies; which, although from their want of discipline, are not of much use to the paramount power, may, in case a mutiny breaks out, prove extremely troublesome to it. Instead of, however, disbanding these armies all at once, they should be incorporated with the British army, while the Princes should be allowed to remain in command of their respective regiments.

SAHACHAR.

5. The same paper being confident that victory will, under all circumstances, crown the British arms in Afghanistan, asks Government to push on operations, for sooner the war is concluded the better. Yakub Khan, for aught we know to the contrary, may be really anxious for peace, and is perhaps feigning hostilities for the purpose of conciliating his Sardars. He should be compelled to come to early terms.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 29th, 1879.

6. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 29th April, doubts that the English will ever be able to make an advantageous treaty with Yakub Khan, for he hates them extremely. His anger and hatred have been aggravated by the entrance of the British army into Afghanistan. It does not, therefore, appear likely that he will make peace with the British Government. Many believe that he is only feigning peace, in order to thus obtain time for preparation; and when this is completed, he will commence open hostilities. That Yakub will ultimately have to sue for peace, there cannot be a doubt; but it is equally certain that if he take up arms against the invaders, they will have to meet with trouble for some time. We sincerely wish that there peace be concluded between Yakub Khan and our Government.

BARDWAN
SANJIVANI,
April 29th, 1879.

7. In an article on the Government and the *Som Prakásh*, the *Bardwan Sanjivani*, of the 29th April, expresses views similar to those noticed in paragraph 11 of this Report.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI.

8. The Cabul war, remarks the same paper, is now about to begin on a proper scale. Preparations have been made on both sides. Although the defeat of the Afghans must be regarded as a certain contingency, still it is not likely that they will yield without a struggle; and the war will be a protracted

one. But where are the "brilliant successes" referred to by Lord Lytton the other day? Truth to tell, beyond the occupation of a portion of the enemy's territory, no battle worthy of the name has been fought as yet in this war, which has now, however, passed out of the preliminary stage. During the six months the war has been conducted, there has been considerable loss of life and treasure, and yet the end is far off. It appears that the earth will be deluged with human blood for some time longer. Considering the short time in which Germany in her war with France, and Russia in the late Turkish war succeeded in defeating their respective powerful opponents, it seems strange that the brave British troops who are equipped with the most modern and scientific weapons of war have not yet been able to defeat the semi-civilized and ill-armed Afghans. Of course, they will be successful in the end; but this will be a matter of time, and entail much expenditure. The victory will not bring in any signal advantages or glory. The Afghans being a poor people, will not be able to pay any war indemnity. In conclusion, the editor observes that there should be a speedy termination of this war.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

9. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 18th April, wherein the

Public revenue and expenditure under the Mahomedans and the British Government.

fiscal administration of the country under the Mahomedans is contrasted with that obtain-

ing at the present day:—After paying the costs of collecting the revenue and the expenses of the administration, the Mahomedan Emperors and Nawabs filled their own coffers with the surplus revenue and spent it for their private purposes and on articles of luxury. The enlightened British Government, however, treats the public revenues as a fund entrusted to their keeping, which can only be used for administrative purposes. Instances of surplus, indeed, in the Indian revenues are very rare, but if they were common, the balance would be formed into a reserve fund; nay, would be actually invested in reproductive works without being deposited in the exchequer in the name of the sovereign. It is a matter of no small wonder that not one pice of the Indian revenues is appropriated by the sovereign as *málikáná*. The people, however, would prefer knowing that the 21 crores of rupees now annually paid by India on account of the home charges were expended in the personal service of Her Majesty. This would exceedingly gratify their loyal hearts.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
April 18th, 1879.

10. The same paper publishes a petition to Her Majesty the Empress of India, purporting to have been written by some persons on behalf of the natives of this

The wants and grievances of the People under the British Government.

country, and setting forth their wants and grievances at considerable length. It is headed a "Petition to our Mother," and bears, as its motto, a Sanskrit adage which means that the strength of children lies in their crying. We give the substance below:—"We were so long happy under your rule. This fair land, the Garden of Eden, had long been disfigured by the oppression and despotic rule of the Mahomedans, but your benignant sway has made it a region happier than even heaven. Although not so fortunate as to have your gracious presence in our midst, still two of your sons, our elder brothers, paid a visit to this country and promised to report to you its condition. Doubtless they have fulfilled their promise. But what they saw, and the picture of India at the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, which the Viceroy has sent you, are not true. This unfortunate people have a notorious habit of concealing their true condition, and they do this especially when they are called upon to honor their gods, spiritual guides, or their sovereign. Even the poorest among them would not hesitate

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA.

to part with everything he had in order that he might be able to accord a due reception to his sovereign. The present Secretary of State and the present Viceroy, and not a few of the officers subordinate to them, however, believe that we are ungrateful to you, our august mother. The two former have, by passing Act IX of 1878, deprived us of a privilege, namely, the liberty of the Press, conferred upon us by a former Viceroy. These officers, however, being foreigners, do not understand our language or habits of thought. The language of affectionate remonstrance which we are wont to address even to our mothers is construed by them as seditious; and they are ready to brand our tongues with red-hot iron. There is, however, another want which pinches us, namely, the high price of food-grains. The evil is caused chiefly by drought and exportation, but the men you send out to govern us do not admit this. Some of them attribute it to an increase of population, and advise us either to take to emigration or to stop marrying. But are these the men who seek your good and are loyal to your throne—these who give us such advice and harass us with taxes—or we, who plead our poverty and cry?”

BHARAT MIHIR,
April 22nd, 1879.

11. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 22nd April, remarks:—It is probable that Lord Lytton will be disappointed at finding that two of his public acts have been almost universally condemned. Perhaps the evil genius under whose malignant influence he rebuked the members of the British Indian Association had not left him when the ruin of the *Som Prakāsh* was determined upon. Even the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, who is always an advocate of Lord Lytton's policy, has not had the courage to justify his action in this matter. Since the leading Bengali journal has ceased to exist through his error, it is not too late to mend it. For a trifling fault the editor has had inflicted upon him a severe punishment.

BHARAT MIHIR.

12. In another article, the same paper refers to the discontinuance of the *Som Prakāsh* through the action of Government, and the dreary prospect that lies before the surviving Bengali journals. The editor exhorts his contemporaries of the Native Press not to give way to despondency, but to take heart from the noble example of the *Som Prakāsh*, which has died in the loyal service of the country. As on the field of battle, when his comrade has fallen beside him, a warrior, while brushing away his tears with one hand, wields his weapon with the other and plunges into the fight, so also we, while lamenting over our friend, should not forget our duty. Like the *Som Prakāsh*, we too have never wished any evil to the British Government which has fostered us from our childhood, and by means of Western learning and science infused a new life into this country. Morning and evening, whether standing up or sitting down, we salute the name of the Empress a hundred times over and pray to God for her long life. We pray for the long continuance of the British rule in India, so that, sitting under its cool shade, we may refresh our parched bodies. But while doing all this, we cannot forget the high task we have imposed upon ourselves. We were born to do good to the country; and if the frowns of Act IX made us shrink from the task, all this expense, trouble, and waste of energy would be to no purpose. Taking our firm stand upon the platform of loyalty, and keeping the serene and cheerful countenance of the British Government steadily in view, whatever we may say will be said in no ambiguous language, and whatever we shall ask will be asked only as children, conscious in the strength of their cause, ask favours of their parents. And if, in seeking to speak the truth in clear language, a thunderbolt fell on our heads also, just as it has descended on the head of the *Som Prakāsh*, we would not care. Such death is not

ignoble. If we are found abusing the privilege which Government has conferred upon us, we are willing to be punished; but not until has Government actually revoked the rights which it itself had conceded to us, shall we cease to loyally make our comments in clear language. We shall not say that in this time of hardship, when there are famines and wars on the one hand, and the necessity of incurring loans on the other, Government has acted fairly to this country by not attending to the condition of the people or listening to their pathetic remonstrances. Nor shall we be able to say that the Afghan war is a just war; that it has any bearing upon the weal and woe of India, or that its enormous expenses should be borne by this impoverished country. We shall not say that it was proper on the part of the British Government to have lowered the age required of the civil service candidates, and thus, in a manner, to have closed the doors of the service to the natives of India. We shall not be able to say that the importing by Government of European labour at a high cost into this country, when the services of natives are cheaply available is justice to the latter. This circumstance alone, if not others also, makes us realize the fact that the sovereign is an alien. Nor are we prepared to say that Government acts according to the clear maxims of Political Economy, when, the gaunt figures of famine and an unfavourable exchange notwithstanding, it expends lakhs of rupees on purely ornamental and fanciful public works only. The editor then expresses his determination to persist in educating public opinion and representing to the rulers the wants and grievances of the people.

13. The *Hindu Ranjika* and the *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, writing on the subject of substituting the native for European labour in the service of Government in this country, both approvingly quote certain remarks of Mr. Beveridge on the subject, and observe that by elevating competent natives to high offices Government will be enabled to make a considerable reduction of expenditure, while not impairing the efficiency of the administration.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
April 23rd, 1879.

RANGPORE DIK
PRAKÁSH,
April 24th, 1879.

14. The *Pratikár*, of the 25th April, is gratified to notice that Mr. Kirkwood, the Joint-Magistrate of Berhampore, has been transferred to Mozufferpore as District Judge. The writer would have no objection even if this officer were made Lieutenant-Governor. That he has left his hold on the people of Berhampore is a matter for gratification.

PRATIKAR,
April 25th, 1879.

15. The *Sádháraní*, of the 27th April, remarks that although famines are primarily brought about by adverse seasons, still the action of man has much to do with aggravating the distress. This is especially seen in connection with the exportation of food-stuffs from this country. Now herein the rulers are not exclusively to blame: the people also are justly reprehensible to some extent. Generally considered, when the ruling race happens to be one which is foreign to a land, some portion of its wealth must necessarily find its way to the country of the rulers; and to produce this wealth the conquered people must labour without themselves reaping any benefit from their work. When the rulers are exceedingly avaricious, the people are drained of all their resources; still they must live. As it is, if the present state of things continue for ten years longer, India will become a desert, and the rulers and the people will both be nowhere. England and India will both sink to the depths of the abyss. Now the distress at the present time is principally owing to an excessive exportation of food-grains. This cannot, of course, be stopped at once; but the middle classes residing in villages will do well to revert to the old practice of storing up grain against adverse seasons. Owing

SADHARANI,
April 27th, 1879.

to the recurrence of frequent grain robberies in the course of the indigo and agrarian riots, which once distracted Bengal, the recurrence of cyclones, which played great havoc with the corn-stacks, and the growing habits of luxury, which are more easily gratified by means of coins than grain, this wise practice has fallen into disuse in recent years; and hence the aggravation of the distress. The writer concludes by exhorting the people to buy up reserve stores of grain at this time.

SADHARANI,
April 27th, 1879.

The Rent Law Commission.

16. The same paper, in referring to the Commission recently appointed to consider the means of improving the present Rent Law of Bengal, expresses confidence in the *personnel* of the Commission, but considers that the time allowed to the members, namely four months, is too limited for the purposes of the enquiry.

SAHACHAR.
April 28th, 1879.

The license tax.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 28th April, writes a long article on the license tax, the operation of which has caused extreme hardship to the people, especially the poor and ignorant among them. In Calcutta the assessments have been most unfair. Mr. Souttar, the Chairman of the Municipality, is doing his best to rectify the wrong, but what can he do alone? The many do not even know that there is any machinery provided for appeals. The assesses of the lowest class are not allowed even this privilege. The state of things in the mofussil is even more deplorable. The writer's remarks are taken from a recent number of the *Hindu Patriot*.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 29th, 1879.

The case of Purushottam Dharamshahi.

18. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 29th April, publishes an account of the treatment received by one Purushottam Dharamshahi at the hands of Mr. Ashton, the Chief Judge of Kattywar, of the Political Officer of that State, and of the Bombay Government. He was thrown into a prison and has ever since been confined therein without any trial, and at a time when he was suffering from severe illness. Up to this time, the poor man is not aware of what offence he has been adjudged guilty. The Bombay Government has not yet given any reply to his repeated representations, while the answer which he has received from the Political Agent is extremely unsatisfactory. The editor thus concludes the article:—By such occasional acts Government does, indeed, make an exhibition of its unbounded power; but it is easily seen whether by such conduct the rulers ultimately are gainers or losers.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

Why are we so miserable?

19. The same paper contains another article entitled "Why are we so miserable?" The editor thus answers the question:—The natives of India lack unity. There is neither any public opinion nor public spirit in the country. There is no sympathy shown to a person who seeks the public good or manifests any independence of opinion. Should any such person get into any trouble, his fellow countrymen, instead of coming to his aid, would rather persecute him and jeer at him. All this is due to a lack of unity and the absence of any strong national tie or public opinion.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

The treatment of prisoners in the jails.

20. The same paper in another article dwells on the rigorous treatment to which the prisoners in the jails are subjected. They are treated worse than beasts. In some jails the prisoners were until very recently made to drag the plough. The cruelties inflicted upon them so harden their nature that, instead of coming out better men, they return to society worse characters and more abandoned to crime than when they left it. Considering that most of the juvenile offenders take to crime only through poverty, and the object of punishment is to deter them from reverting to their old ways while protecting society from the effects of their wrong doings, it behoves Government

to extend a more lenient treatment to the prisoners than what they receive at present, and to adopt means for reforming their character. Crime will rather increase than diminish until this is done.

21. The same paper thus speaks of the Duke of Buckingham, the Governor of Madras:—Among the chief rulers in India, the Duke of Buckingham, the

The Duke of Buckingham.

Governor of Madras, is unsurpassed in nobility of disposition. Through evil associations the honest heart of Lord Lytton has become stained. A considerable change has come over Sir Richard Temple since he became Governor of Bombay; the sudden eminence attained by Sir Ashley Eden makes him look down upon everything, while Sir George Couper is but a brother of Sir Ashley. The Duke of Buckingham alone is a true friend of the natives. Setting aside the request of Lord Lytton, he expressed himself as opposed to the Vernacular Press Act when that measure had not become law. When during the Madras famine the authorities were seeking to conceal abuses, and thus keep up the good name of Government, the Duke of Buckingham opposed this; and, contrary to the wishes of the Government of India, he raised subscriptions in England, and with the money thus collected, saved alive thousands of the famine-stricken. Descended from the Royal family of England, and occupying a high position in English society, it is but natural that he should be possessed of a broad heart.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
April 29th, 1879.

22. Referring to the Commission appointed to report on the state of the existing rent law of Bengal and other matters connected therewith, the same paper observes that an amendment of the rent law is, indeed, necessary; but this should be done in accordance with the public opinion of the country. The measure should not be passed in haste.

The proposed rent law for Bengal.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

LOCAL.

23. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 18th April, dwells on the distress of the poor in Shalap. They have hitherto lived on peas and gourds, but even these are now about to fail them. Owing to the drought, certain of the crops have not yielded much, while others have been destroyed by insects. The seed sown in the months of Falgun and Chaitra is parched with heat, which is oppressive.

Distress at Shalap.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA.
April 18th, 1879.

24. Correspondents of the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 22nd April, respectively writing from Mymensingh and Tangail, complain of the inequitable assessments with the license tax made in these places. In Mymensingh the *Amlah* of the circle officer receive illegal gratifications almost in broad daylight, while the assessors in the Tangail sub-division, Babu Braja Kánta Ráya, Moulvi Ajahar, and Babu Táarak Chandra Vasu, are doing their work in a most unsatisfactory way.

The license-tax in Mymensingh and Tangail.

BHARAT MIHIR,
April 22nd, 1879.

25. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 27th April, gives an account of a meeting held at Dacca on the 20th April last, at which resolutions were proposed and unanimously adopted expressing deep regret at the discontinuance of the *Som Prakásh* through a cruel action on the part of Government, and conveying an expression of sympathy with, and gratitude to, the esteemed editor, Pundit Dwárkánáth Vidyábhushan.

Meeting to express regret at the discontinuance of the *Som Prakásh*.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 27th, 1879.

26. A correspondent of the same paper asks Government to order the establishment of a post office at Arai-hajar, a flourishing village, and occupying a central

A Post Office at Arai-hajar.

DACCA PRAKASH.

position in respect to this part of the country. There is only one such office at Narsinghadi, which is a considerable distance from the former locality; and the present arrangement occasions much inconvenience and delay in the receipt of letters and newspapers.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
April 21st, 1879.

27. A correspondent of the *Sar Sudhanidhi*, of the 21st April, complains that although the native rate-payers of the Burra Bazar pay the municipal tax

equally with others in the European quarters of the town, still the roads in the former section of the metropolis are seldom watered and are full of dust. This is not, however, the case in the European quarters of Calcutta, where the roads are twice watered every day. The supply of water in the Municipal hydrants also is very limited in the Burra Bazar.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
April 25th, 1879.

28. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 25th April, notices the fearful prevalence of gambling in the district of Julpigoree, which is ruining the

inhabitants. The police cannot interfere, for the Gambling Act is not in force in the district. Government is asked to extend it to this place.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 29th, 1879.

29. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 29th April, contains a highly eulogistic notice of the labours of Mr. Field as the District Judge of Burdwan. He is a

most learned, intelligent, upright, and energetic officer; and while in Burdwan effected many important reforms in the administration of civil justice in the district.

HINDU HITASHINI,
April 26th, 1879.

30. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 26th April, notices the dreary prospects of agriculture in Eastern Bengal owing to drought and distress occasioned to the poor by the high prices. The editor urges upon Government the advisability of constructing the Dacca and Mymensingh railway at this time. If this were done, many would be provided with employment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
April 28th, 1879.

31. The *Sar Sudhanidhi*, of the 28th April observes, in reference to the Afghan war, that in a few days Afghanistan will be reduced to ruins; for although the Afghans are now fighting desperately, still in a short time their pride will be crushed. India is crying under a load of miseries. A multiplicity of taxes, a recurrence of famines and pestilences, the enactment almost daily of new laws, are harassing the people. Add to this the speeches (of the rulers) which add insult to injury. India will have to pay the costs of the Afghan war and make good the loss that will be occasioned by the abolition of the cotton duties. High prices have caused distress among all classes of the people.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 29th, 1879.

32. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 29th April, refers to the subject of the poverty of India which has now become so important that its consideration can no longer be put off. In this issue of his paper the editor contents himself with only reproducing the substance of Mr. Hyndman's article on the bankruptcy of India in the *Nineteenth Century*.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 3rd May 1879.